

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 03087 150708Z

12-R
ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 EB-11 INR-10

L-03 DRC-01 RSC-01 INRE-00 /065 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1890

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3087

FOR DEPSEC RUSH FROM SULLIVAN

DEPT. PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR SCOWCROFT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN, EGEN, RP
SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF PHILIPPINE HOMECOMING FARE ISSUE

REF: MANILA 3045

1. ROMULO HAS JUST TELEPHONED ME WITH PERSONAL PLEA FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS ASKING THAT PRESIDENT NIXON SET ASIDE CAB RULING DISALLOWING PHILIPPINE AIR LINES FILING FOR HOMECOMING FARES. ROMULO POINTS OUT THAT CLOSE IDENTIFICATION OF PRESIDENT MARCOS WITH THIS PROJECT WOULD RESULT IN CAB RULING BEING CONSIDERED PERSONAL BLOW TO MARCOS DELIVERED IN NAME OF PRESIDENT NIXON.

2. I EXPLAINED DISCRIMINATORY ASPECTS OF FARE WHICH LIMITED IT TO FILIPINO NATIONALS AND THEREFORE MADE IT QUESTIONABLE PRACTICE. ROMULO REPLIED BY POINTING OUT THAT IT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AND PRACTICED FOR SIX MONTHS WITHOUT PRIOR COMPLAINT BY CAB. HE WAS THEREFORE INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE CURRENT ACTION TO COMMERCIAL PRESSURE BROUGHT BY PAN AMERICAN.

3. IN REFTTEL, WHICH I SENT BOB INGERSOLL, AND IN CONVERSATIONS WHICH I HAD WITH YOU DURING YOUR RECENT CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT, I POINTED OUT PANDORA'S BOX WHICH THIS RULING

COULD OPEN IF PRESIDENT APPROVES IT. SINCE, AS YOU
NOTED DURING YOUR VISIT, MARCOS HAS MADE VERY FEW
DEMANDS UPON US RECENTLY, I HOPE YOU AND BOB CAN
HEAD OFF THIS UNTIMELY AND, IN MY JUDGMENT,
UNNECESSARY REVERSAL OF A PROGRAM WHICH ENTAILS
CONSIDERABLE FILIPINO PRESTIGE.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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